

Muddy Sled Prescribed Fire Project

July 31, 2020

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest invites your input on a proposal to prescribe burn approximately 1,123 acres within the Muddy Sled Prescribed Fire Project area.

Location

The Muddy Sled Prescribed Fire Project is located on the Wallowa Valley Ranger District. Approximately 23 miles north of Enterprise, Oregon (See map 1).

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce and manage hazardous fuels within the Muddy Sled Project area. There is a need within the project area to reduce forest stand densities and fuel loadings to increase resiliency to wildfire. Reducing the risk and severity of a potential wildfire will help restore the vegetation and surface fuel characteristics that are consistent with the natural fire regime and promote landscape restoration.

Proposed Action

The project proposes to underburn approximately 1,123 acres to reduce fuels. Underburns would be designed to recreate the naturally occurring difference in fuel loading between aspects and along ridges and break up the continuity of existing surface fuels.

Burning may be accomplished by either hand ignition, aerial ignition, or a combination of the two. Fuels, topography, seasonality, and availability of personnel will determine the specific ignition technique employed.

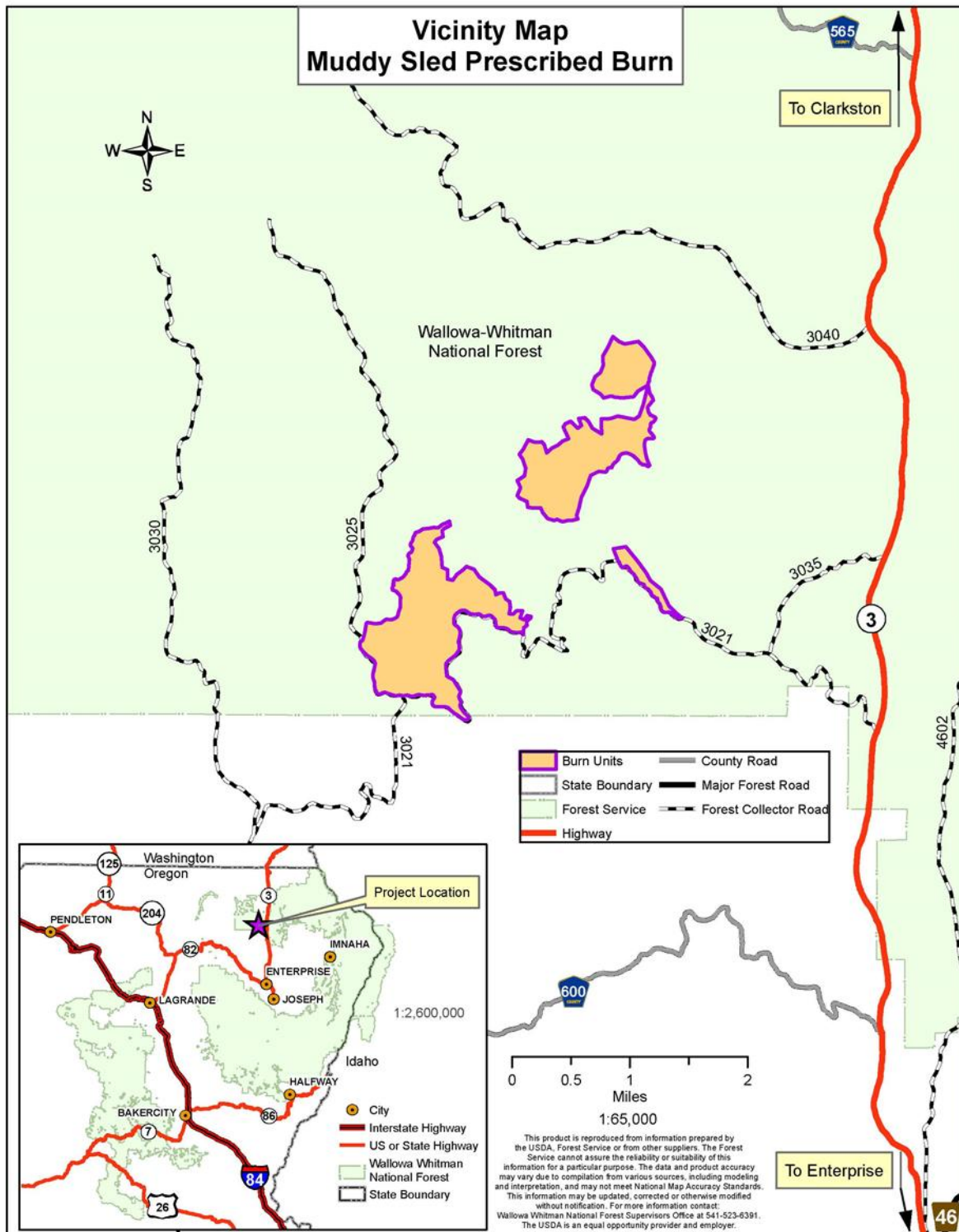
This proposal would establish control lines on main roads and ridges; this results in less exposure to firefighters and less impact to resources. The proposed action will meet the purpose and need to protect and promote large-diameter trees through the removal of ladder fuels and smaller conifer competition, and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire.

The proposal includes measures to protect Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). These measures are:

- Limiting burn severity within RHCAs to a patchy low severity burn.
- Excluding active lighting within RHCAs, allowing fire to back into RHCAs.
- Lighting in a manner and under conditions that minimize the potential for spotting into or over Category 1 RHCAs.
- Monitor RHCAs for fire effects.

The preferred comment submission platform is via our webpage. Submit electronic comments on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58544> by selecting the "Comment on Project" link in the "Get Connected" group at the right-hand side of the project webpage.

Alternatively, please share your input regarding this proposal by contacting Andrea Holmquist at 541-426-5533, andrea.holmquist@usda.gov, and P.O. Box 905, Joseph, OR 97846. If you would like any additional information about the project, please contact Gabe Hale, Project Team Leader, at 541-426-5652, gabriel.hale@usda.gov, and Wallowa Mountains Office, P.O. Box 905, Joseph, OR 97846. Please provide input by 08-20-2020. Thank you for your interest in this project.



Map 1